

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3380

To require the recording and reporting of communications between the Department of Justice and the White House relating to civil and criminal investigations, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 20, 2019

Mr. JEFFRIES (for himself and Mr. TED LIEU of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To require the recording and reporting of communications between the Department of Justice and the White House relating to civil and criminal investigations, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Security from Political  
5       Interference in Justice Act of 2019”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this Act—

1           (1) the term “communications log” means the  
2 log required to be maintained under section 3(a);

3           (2) the term “covered communication”—

4               (A) means any communication relating to  
5 an ongoing investigation conducted by the De-  
6 partment of Justice in any civil or criminal  
7 matter (regardless of whether a civil action or  
8 criminal indictment or information has been  
9 filed); and

10           (B) does not include a communication  
11 that—

12               (i) relates solely to policy, appoint-  
13 ments, legislation, rulemaking, budgets,  
14 public relations, programmatic matters,  
15 intergovernmental relations, administrative  
16 or personnel matters, appellate litigation,  
17 or requests for legal advice; and

18               (ii) does not relate to an ongoing in-  
19 vestigation described in subparagraph (A);  
20 and

21           (3) the term “investigative office” means—

22               (A) the Office of the Inspector General of  
23 the Department of Justice; and

24               (B) the Office of Professional Responsi-  
25 bility of the Department of Justice.

1 **SEC. 3. COMMUNICATIONS LOGS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Counsel to the President and  
3 the Attorney General shall each maintain a log of any cov-  
4 ered communication between—

5 (1) an officer or employee of the Department of  
6 Justice; and

7 (2) an officer or employee of the Executive Of-  
8 fice of the President.

9 (b) CONTENTS.—A communications log shall include,  
10 with respect to a covered communication—

11 (1) the name and title of each officer or em-  
12 ployee of the Department of Justice or the Executive  
13 Office of the President who participated in the cov-  
14 ered communication;

15 (2) the topic of the covered communication; and

16 (3) a statement describing the purpose and ne-  
17 cessity of the covered communication.

18 (c) OVERSIGHT.—

19 (1) PERIODIC DISCLOSURE OF LOGS.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-  
21 graph (B), not later than January 30 and July  
22 30 of each year, the Attorney General shall sub-  
23 mit to Congress and each investigative office a  
24 report containing the communications log for  
25 the 6-month period preceding that January or  
26 July.

1 (B) RECORDS OF CERTAIN COMMUNICA-  
2 TIONS.—

3 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney Gen-  
4 eral shall exclude from the report sub-  
5 mitted to Congress under subparagraph  
6 (A) any record of a covered communication  
7 in which any of the following officials par-  
8 ticipated:

9 (I) The President.

10 (II) The Vice President.

11 (III) The Counsel to the Presi-  
12 dent.

13 (IV) The Counselor to the Presi-  
14 dent.

15 (V) The Attorney General.

16 (VI) The Deputy Attorney Gen-  
17 eral.

18 (VII) The Associate Attorney  
19 General.

20 (ii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The  
21 exclusion of certain records under clause  
22 (i) from the report to Congress under sub-  
23 paragraph (A) shall not be construed to—

24 (I) exclude those records from  
25 the report to the investigative offices

1 under subparagraph (A) or the review  
2 and notice requirements under para-  
3 graph (2); or

4 (II) protect those records from  
5 congressional subpoena.

6 (2) NOTICE OF INAPPROPRIATE OR IMPROPER  
7 COMMUNICATIONS.—The head of an investigative of-  
8 fice shall—

9 (A) review each communications log re-  
10 ceived under paragraph (1)(A); and

11 (B) notify Congress if the office head de-  
12 termines that a covered communication de-  
13 scribed in the communications log—

14 (i) is inappropriate from a law en-  
15 forcement perspective; or

16 (ii) raises concerns about improper  
17 political interference.

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